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THE COLLECTIVIZATION OF TWO CZECHOSLOVAK VILLAGES.

The Communists in Czechoslovakia are now trying to complete the collectivization of the villages. They are using all the propaganda means available: radio, newspapers, "culture" brigades etc. Life in the villages is getting back to the system of the XVIIIth and XIXth century - the district Secretariate of the Communist Party and the Labor Office being the feudals, and the members of the Co-operatives and independent farmers having the rights of a slave as under the reign of Maria Theresia. For instance: the Party's Secretariate and the Labor Office do not allow the farmers to move even when their farm is taken away from them, they decide on the future of the village children, they decide whether they can proceed in their studies, whether a 45-45 years old boy can go to an agriculture school or learn farming. According to a government decree of 8 May, 1961 all those who are not allowed to continue in their studies after completing their compulsory school attendance have to report for work at a factory. This will be the end of farming, as to day there are only a few young people who would be willing to work in a kolhoz. Those who in spite of everything would like to work on a farm are forced to work in factories. Bitter experience has shown us that nobody is paying any attention to the abilities or wishes of the young people.

All this influences farming to a great extent. Last year, in the district of Cheb, the crops were still on the field when the first snow came. The managers of the State Estates usually do not know anything about farming; even their knowledge of the rules of JED is very doubtful - but all of them are ardent communists. So it happens that on an area of 10 ha the crop of potatoes cannot be seen because of weeds, that 5 ha of sugar-beet and 5 ha of peas had to be ploughed up in 1960 at the State Estate Melane in the district of Cheb.

It is interesting to watch the Communists find a JED. The founders are usually officials of the C.P. who were never farmers. They press the contingents which are too high to those who are not members of the JED so that they are forced to join the JED as they are not able to pay the penalties and do not want to go to jail. Such methods are often successful as the farmers prefer to sign the application to have their families persecuted.

One of such examples is the village Vojtanov near Cheb, where the JED was founded by the clerk of the District National Committee and by the chief of the local Gation Office and three farmers.

One of the farmers had once been a beggar in Flasz, later he got hold of a large estate which had belonged to a German and devastated it completely. The second was a former soldier from the Czechoslovak Army in Russia. He later became the national administrator of a textile factory, then owner of a large estate, "people's judge" and leader of the village militia.

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The real farmers prefer to stay in the background, only occasionally are they found among the farmers. These are the main reasons for the lack of flour, fats, eggs, meat, milk and other food items in Czechoslovakia. Under no circumstances does the fault for this lie with the school children who have not eaten their rolls, nor the guests in restaurants who have left something on their plates, nor was this caused by the "rich farmers" - as the Communists call individual farmers - who are said to have fed their horses and cattle with bread. This last reason is used as a purpose for the confiscation of their estate.

There are two main reasons for the low produce of the soil:

- 1./ the forcible collectivization,
- 2./ the non-professional and irresponsible management of the State Estates.

The collective farming as the Communists would like to have it is not successful as it forces the people to slavery and does not allow them to cooperate freely.

The communist doctrine takes for granted that the only way to develop a Communist society is to use force rather than persuasion. Thus the Communists can perform the collectivization of the Czechoslovak village only formally, in reality they are making of the farmers their worst enemies who will never help to improve the food situation in Czechoslovakia.

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